

Books.

An Introduction to Heraldry: containing the Origin and Use of Arms; Rules for Blazoning; Dictionary of Terms, &c., &c. By HUGH CLARK. Fourteenth edition. London: Washbourne, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

A book which has passed through fourteen editions scarcely needs a recommendation: but having been asked by some correspondents to name a concise introduction to the science of heraldry,* and this edition (published 1845) coming before us, we point it out to them as well calculated to supply their want.

A chapter on heraldry in conjunction with architecture, which has been added in this issue, gives it a further claim to notice.

The editor of the book cites the large shields on the side walls of the nave of Westminster Abbey, erected during the reign of Henry III. A.D. 1249, as one of the early introductions of heraldry as an adjunct to architecture; and to Henry VII.'s Chapel at Westminster as a building wherein it was the most largely applied.

A paragraph on this same subject will be found on another page.

Miscellanea.

NECESSITY FOR APPLICATION AND INDUSTRY.—"This age," says Mr. Lyon Playfair, in an interesting address to the students at Putney College, "On the importance of studying abstract science," "is an age of action, and if you are to succeed in future life, you must now brace and prepare yourself for the struggle. If you fall asleep while you are young, in vigour, and able to prepare yourself for future life, the world will not know you when you awake, and it will be a long and a sad struggle for you to overtake those who were active when you were passive. Recollect, that it is only by study, downright hard study now, that you can acquire that mental strength and vigour that will enable you to overcome the increasing difficulties of progress in life. The hopes that I have held out are hopes certain to be realised by him who employs his youth well in acquiring a fundamental and accurate knowledge of the applied sciences, but they are hopes equally certain of frustration to him who has mispent his period of study in idleness and neglect." Again,—"If you resort to the story of the human race from the earliest periods till now, if you view them in their aggregate as nations or in their individualities, as exhibited by the great men of a particular period, you will find the same result in all, that the habits and studies of the young determined the character of an epoch, of a nation, or of an individual. No man in any profession ever rose to fame or station without in youth having exhibited habits of application and industry. If you do not show in youth that you have vigour and strength to hold your own in the stream of life, and skill to steer your bark amidst its shoals and perils, depend upon it, in age your bark will be pushed aside by those who have devoted their time to acquire a knowledge of how to manage their own vessels, while you will be constantly in trouble, hazard, and dismay, running against shoals, tossed on the banks, and shipwrecked in your dearest hopes. Be assured, that in these days, the carving out of your fortunes is entirely in your own hands. In this busy community of your own, the bees do not make honey for the drones. But the hive is still large enough to contain and cherish all those who enter in with habits of industry and skill in applying it."

IMPROVEMENTS AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—With regard to a paragraph on this subject, Mr. Wyatt asks us to say:—1st. The recent alterations in no way originated from, or were dependent upon, "the munificent bequest of Lady Murray." It was not until after a special general court of the governors had sanctioned the works, at an outlay of £2,000, that they were informed of this handsome gift. 2ndly. The alterations have not cost 20,000*l.*, as reported, and will probably not involve a greater outlay than half his original estimate for a new hospital.

* A sort of question which, as a general rule, we are compelled to decline answering.

THE WOODEN CHURCH, GREENSTED, ESSEX.—We have already alluded to a paper by Mr. Burkill on this subject, read at a meeting of the British Archaeological Association. In this church was enshrined the body of Edmund the Martyr. According to the paper, Mr. Letheby, in 1728, drew up an account of this wooden church, which was published in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, at which time there existed nearly entire the series of split trees which formed the four walls of the nave, since which a considerable portion of the old edifice has been removed. The east end opening into the chancel was pulled down to connect the two parts, as well as a large portion of the west end connecting it with the tower, which is used as the vestry; the south side has also been broken into, to form the modern entrance, leaving the north side the only fair specimen of the original building. The entire length of the shrine was 29 feet 9 inches, the breadth 14 feet. The sill rested on a low wall of brick, which formed the groundwork; the upper part of the frame consisted of rough-hewn timber, with a groove cut in the under part, and the uprights forming the walls, being cut in the form of a wedge at the top, by being inserted into the groove, were made fast by wooden pins. The series of the outer timbers were segments of the tree, with a board about 2 inches thick, taken from the middle, these boards probably serving for the interior lining of the shrine. On examining the state of the timber, during its recent demolition, it was too evident that neglect alone has been the cause of the serious inroads made on the otherwise sound timber, by the *Ptinus Pectinicornis*, an insect well known to antiquaries, from its destructive powers on wood carvings, old books, &c., the larger sort attacking the stoutest timbers, and in a very short time reducing them to powder. It is this insect which has, in a very short time, rendered it absolutely necessary to remove the wooden portion of Greensted Church, and although efforts have been made to replace some of the old material, the portions rendered useless have been very considerable. Mr. Burkill urged the necessity of using means, by washing the timber with some liquid obnoxious to the insect, that the present age should be guiltless of the charge of neglecting one of the most interesting memorials of past times.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL: SCULPTURE.—A subscriber writes thus:—"I recently had occasion to visit Greenwich Hospital, and in going into the Painted Hall it at once struck me how imposing and grand it might be rendered by the introduction of statues of the several naval commanders, placed on each side up the centre of the room. It is an opportunity that seldom occurs, of rendering it one of the most imposing rooms in the country by the introduction of statues of the several great commanders whose valour and prowess is depicted on the walls in the several pictures. In a country like our own, where every Englishman feels proud in hearing the names of its great commanders extolled, both by sea and land, statues of such men create additional interest in the minds of the people. These things are not lost sight of on the continent, then why in this country? It has a parsimonious appearance which ought not to exist, it is a want of proper pride. If you cast your eye on Trafalgar-square or Waterloo-bridge, what an opportunity again offers itself by the introduction of such ornaments, more especially on the latter—one of the most splendid bridges in the world; and what could render it a more imposing object still than by being surmounted by statues of generals, with a grand composition of an arch leading from the Strand, more especially as it has now become one of the leading thoroughfares of the great metropolis. It is to be regretted that these opportunities are so long lost sight of."

THE CHICHESTER TRAINING SCHOOL COMPETITION.—We strongly suspected that things were not going quite correctly here, and said so. Our suspicions would seem to be thoroughly borne out by an extraordinary statement received just before going to press, from Mr. John Elliott, who speaks more fearlessly than architects are in the habit of doing. We will not risk weakening its force by a too hasty digest of it, and therefore defer it till our next.

IMPROVEMENT OF LEICESTER-SQUARE.—The renewed suggestion in our pages to throw open the area of Leicester-square, has again been largely echoed and approved,—to such an extent, indeed, as ought to lead to its adoption. The *Literary Gazette* and *Athenæum* both call it an excellent suggestion, which they would be glad to see carried into execution. The *Athenæum* remarks,—"Green trees in the heart of a city are and ever were most commendable,"—but the Dryads have evinced an insuperable objection to live in Leicester-square. Nature has no chance in that locality against art; Flora has been dead beat in that arena by Miss Linwood and Madame Wharton. One can conceive of any kind of singing in Leicester-square but the singing of birds. It is useless for the householders to cling to the fond belief of an Arcadia before their upper-floor windows. Grass won't grow even in the untrodden part of that crowded but melancholy-looking thoroughfare. 'It is an evidence,' says the correspondent of *THE BUILDER*, 'that no person ever walks in the inclosure; the walks are mud,—and the trees that should be green are black.' Traffic is here so much the engrossing object of life that 'nursery maids and children idling or taking exercise, as they do in the more aristocratic squares, would seem quite out of character.'—To reclaim this waste from its aspect of vegetable desolation by the scheme in question would certainly give an air of cheerfulness to the site by which both the passer through the square and the sojourner therein would be gainers:—and we recommend the hint to those commissioned generally with the improvement of the architectural appearance of the metropolis, and to those particularly whom the subject more directly concerns."

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND THE LONDON ART-UNION.—By a letter from Sir Denis Le Marchant to the hon. secretary, dated the 3rd instant, the Board of Trade have withdrawn all their proposed alterations, being reluctant "to urge their views against the strongly expressed and deliberate sentiments of the committee of the London Art-Union, with whom they have been all along most anxious to co-operate." Having made a great mistake, the wisest course their lordships could adopt was to retrace their steps, and this, we are glad to find, they have done with a good grace. It is to be hoped they will never again, by uncalled for interference, risk the prosperity of this most important institution.

THE POLLUTION OF WATER BY POISONOUS SALTS OF LEAD AND COPPER.—A subject, to the great importance of which *THE BUILDER* was the first popular medium through which the public attention was excited, now attracts particular attention. Facts and circumstances of more or less recent occurrence have been stated in the *Times*, *Morning Herald*, &c., by competent authorities (in the latter throughout a long and most interesting communication from Stratford-on-Avon, by Dr. Thomas Thomson), confirmatory of every thing stated or suggested in *THE BUILDER*. The evil, Dr. Thomson believes, is a far more general and more deadly one (though probably not within the bounds of the metropolis), than is even yet conceived; and in allusion to the discovery at Claremont, seeing that even royal palaces have not been exempted, the painful suspicion is excited that the health and strength of one who was much beloved by the nation at large in bye-gone years were thus undermined while resident there. It is found to be in the precise ratio of its purity, as we long since noticed, that water becomes impregnated with the poison; for when it contains various neutral salts, especially sulphates, a protective crust is formed on the surface of the cistern, &c., which it is now recommended, as already in *THE BUILDER*, to preserve rather than cleanse away. Besides the more serious symptoms of paralysis, colic, &c., a frequent index to the action of such poison is a dark blue line along the translucent edge of the gums. Sulphuric acid, diluted largely, in doses of 10 to 12 drops at a time, has been recommended as a remedy, but determined prevention is better than cure; and to that end, wherever water tends to take up lead or copper, earthenware pipes, glass pumps, and perhaps zinc cisterns—all cheap articles—are advisable.